

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of sertraline hydrochloride by comprising:
 - a. ~~Suspending~~suspending/dissolving sertraline acetate in suitable solvents;
 - b. ~~Adjusting~~adjusting the pH of the mixture with hydrogen chloride either in anhydrous form or aqueous form at elevated temperatures ranging from 25°C to 65°C;
 - c. ~~Cooling~~cooling the reaction mixture; and
 - d. isolating and drying to obtain sertraline hydrochloride.

2. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein in step b, the pH of the mixture is adjusted with hydrogen chloride gas at elevated temperatures ranging from 40°C to 65°C; in step c, the reaction mixture is cooled gradually over more than 2 hours to bring the temperature to 25°C-20°C; and in step d, the sertraline hydrochloride obtained is sertraline hydrochloride ~~form~~ Form II.

3. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein in step b, the pH of the mixture is adjusted with hydrogen chloride gas at elevated temperatures ranging between 40°C to 65°C; in step c, the reaction mixture is cooled rapidly in less than 30 minutes to bring the temperature to 15°C to 20°C; and in step d, the sertraline hydrochloride obtained is sertraline hydrochloride ~~form~~ Form III.

4. (Original) A process according to claim 3, wherein the cooling is done rapidly over a few minutes.

5. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein in step b, the pH of the mixture is adjusted with hydrogen chloride gas at elevated temperatures ranging between 40°C to 65°C; in step c, the reaction mixture is cooled rapidly in less than 30 minutes to bring the temperature to 15°C to 25°C; and in step d, the drying is carried out in a fluid bed drier, and the sertraline hydrochloride obtained is sertraline hydrochloride ~~form IV~~ Form IV.

6. (Original) A process according to claim 5, wherein the sertraline acetate is suspended/dissolved in solvents such as methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, ethyl acetate, or mixtures thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~claim 5 or 6~~ claim 5, wherein the solvent used is isopropanol.

8. (Currently Amended) A process according ~~any one of claims 2 to 4~~ claim 2, wherein the sertraline acetate is suspended/dissolved in solvents such as methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, ethyl acetate, toluene or mixtures thereof.

9. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of claims 2 to 4~~ claim 2, wherein the solvent used is a mixture of isopropanol and toluene.

10. (Original) A process according to claim 9, wherein toluene is present between 2 to 8% by weight of the total volume of solvent.

11. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any of claims 2 to 10~~ claim 1, wherein the pH of the mixture is adjusted to a value from 1- 2.

12. (Original) A process according to claim 11, wherein the pH is adjusted at a temperature from 45°C to 65°C.

13. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein in step b, the pH of the mixture is adjusted with aqueous hydrochloric acid at ambient temperatures ranging between

25°C and 35°C; and in step d, the sertraline hydrochloride obtained is sertraline hydrochloride ~~form~~ Form V.

14. (Original) A process according to claim 13, wherein the sertraline acetate is suspended/dissolved in solvents such as methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, ethyl acetate, water or mixtures thereof.

15. (Original) A process according to claim 13, wherein the solvent used is water.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of sertraline hydrochloride Form V

bycomprising:

- a. ~~Suspending~~suspending/dissolving sertraline base in acetic acid;
- b. ~~Adjusting~~adjusting the pH of the mixture with aqueous hydrogen chloride;
- c. ~~Cooling~~cooling the reaction mixture; and
- d. ~~Isolating~~isolating and drying the sertraline hydrochloride to obtain ~~form~~ Form

V.

18. (Original) A process according to claim 17, wherein the pH of the mixture is adjusted to a value from 1-2.

19. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~claim 17 or 18~~ claim 17, wherein the cooling is done gradually to bring the temperature from 30°C to 5°C - 0°C.

20-29. (Canceled)

30. (New) A process according to claim 3, wherein the sertraline acetate is suspended/dissolved in solvents such as methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, ethyl acetate, toluene or mixtures thereof.

31. (New) A process according to claim 3, wherein the solvent used is a mixture of isopropanol and toluene.
32. (New) A process according to claim 31, wherein toluene is present between 2 to 8% by weight of the total volume of solvent.